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## The C. elegans PTEN homolog, DAF-18, acts in the insulin receptor-like metabolic signaling pathway.

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An insulin-like signaling pathway, from the DAF-2 receptor, the AGE-1 phosphoinositide 3-kinase, and the AKT-1/AKT-2 serine/threonine kinases to the DAF-16 Fork head transcription factor, regulates the metabolism, development, and life span of *Caenorhabditis elegans*. Inhibition of daf-18 gene activity bypasses the normal requirement for AGE-1 and partially bypasses the need for DAF-2 signaling. The suppression of age-1 mutations by a daf-18 mutation depends on AKT-1/AKT-2 signaling, showing that DAF-18 acts between AGE-1 and the AKT input to DAF-16 transcriptional regulation. daf-18 encodes a homolog of the human tumor suppressor PTEN (MMAC1/TEP1), which has 3-phosphatase activity toward phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate (PIP3). DAF-18 PTEN may normally limit AKT-1 and AKT-2 activation by decreasing PIP3 levels. The action of daf-18 in this metabolic control pathway suggests that mammalian PTEN may modulate insulin signaling and may be variant in diabetic pedigrees.

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